

Amendments to the Specification:

✓ Please replace the paragraph starting with "To transmit" beginning on page 2, lines 7-11, with the following amended paragraph:

To transmit signals in different digital signal formats over shared optical networks requires 'transparent communication.' Each signal must be transmitted in its own format or as close as possible thereto to make communication process transparent to the user.

Transparent optical networks support a variety of user (client) terminal types to provide a general-purpose low-cost network.
